



## **CLIM-ATIC**

### *Climate Change - Adapting to The Impacts on Communities in Northern Peripheral Regions*

CLIM-ATIC is a potential new multi-partner project, seeking funding through the European Commission's Northern Periphery Programme. A transnational triple helix network is currently being established within the peripheral regions of northern Europe, in order to deliver a strategic project which will focus on:

- 1. the investigation and communication of potential impacts of climate change to small peripheral rural communities,*
- 2. the development of adaptation strategies by these communities to avoid or reduce the negative impacts of climate change, while taking advantage of opportunities.*
- 3. the implementation of a number of adaptation demonstration projects*
- 4. the provision of a suitable educational delivery vehicle to disseminate good practice knowledge for community adaptation*

Research on climate change in Northern Europe predicts not only changes in average temperature and precipitation, but also an increase in the frequency and duration of floods, droughts, storms and other extreme events, as well as, in the long term, significant sea level rise and the possible breakdown of the thermohaline circulation. The impacts of such changes to agriculture, fisheries, forestry, energy, transport, tourism, cultural heritage, landscape character, and environmental processes is of concern, as is the uncertainty associated with the related impacts on small and rural communities..

The impacts of policy decisions made by national, regional and local government organisations, in an attempt to combat climate change, on these communities are also a key issue as these have significant effects on lifestyles and business operations.

For a community to adapt to the impacts of climate change, through the development and implementation of local climate change adaptation strategies, the best possible understanding of the possible impacts of climate change on communities is required, together with a practical evaluation of the opportunities for, and barriers to, specific activities.

The proposed collaborative project will involve five international regions, each with a number of academic, public and private sector partners, and each working with a number of communities to investigate the likely climate change impacts and develop a community climate change adaptation strategy. The project will focus on a number of interconnected key themes of priority to the northern periphery regions. Each theme will be covered by at least two regions. The themes are:

- sustainable transport,
- renewable energy provision and management ,
- sustainable tourism,
- flooding,
- multi use forestry.

A significant element (50%) of the project will be the implementation of at least one demonstration project within each region that will bring local employment opportunities, social benefits, or improved environmental management.

The project will develop the institutional means for the effective long-term dissemination of the knowledge resulting from the project, and future relevant knowledge, within the participating regions

and across the Northern Periphery in order to support the development and implementation of more successful community adaptation strategies.

The five project regions, and their current partners and potential partners/funders (*in italics*) are:

- **Highlands and Islands, Scotland** (lead region)
  - UHI Millennium Institute; Centre for mountain Studies (lead partner) and Environmental Research Institute and the Sustainable Development Research Institute
  - Forestry Commission for Scotland
  - Scottish and Southern Energy
  - Graham and Sibbald
  - *Cairngorms National Park Authority*
  - *Cairngorm Mountain Ltd.*
  - *Highlands and islands regional transport partnership HITRANS*
  - *Highlands and islands Enterprise*
  - *Scottish Executive*
  - *SNIFFER, Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research*
- **County of Västerbotten, Sweden**
  - Swedish Forest Agency (Skogsstyrelsen)
  - Association of local authorities in the County of Vasterbotten
  - Climate Impacts Research Centre, Umeå University
  - Åre Municipality
  - Lycksele Municipality
  - *Swedish Energy Agency*
- **Lapland, Finland**
  - Lapland Regional Environment Centre
  - *Finnish Forestry Research Inst*
  - *University of Lapland*
  - *Rovaniemi Municipality*
  - *Kittila Municipality*
  - *regional tourist organisations*
- **North East Iceland**
  - RHA - The Research Centre of the University of Akureyri
  - *Environice*
  - *Energy Agency in Iceland*
  - *Agricultural University of Iceland*
  - *The Icelandic Institute of Natural History*
- **Sogn & Fjordane, Norway**
  - Western Norway Research Institute
  - Flora Municipality
  - *Norway energy service,*
  - *Fjordane county administration*

In addition is anticipated that Northern Ireland, Ireland, Greenland and the Faeroes will participate in all dissemination activities of the project.

If successful the project will be substantially funded by the European Commission's Northern Periphery Programme. A total budget of approximately 2.7 million euros will be required over 3 years. Regional funding will be required to provide up to 50% of each regional project budget. The main project proposals will be submitted on 1st October 2007 (draft submission 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2007), with a proposed project start date early 2008.

Please contact Clive Bowman at the Centre for Mountain Studies, UHI, if you would like more information on this project or wish to discuss participation. Phone: 01738 877204, [clive.bowman@perth.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:clive.bowman@perth.uhi.ac.uk)